

Homicides Related to Intimate Partner Violence

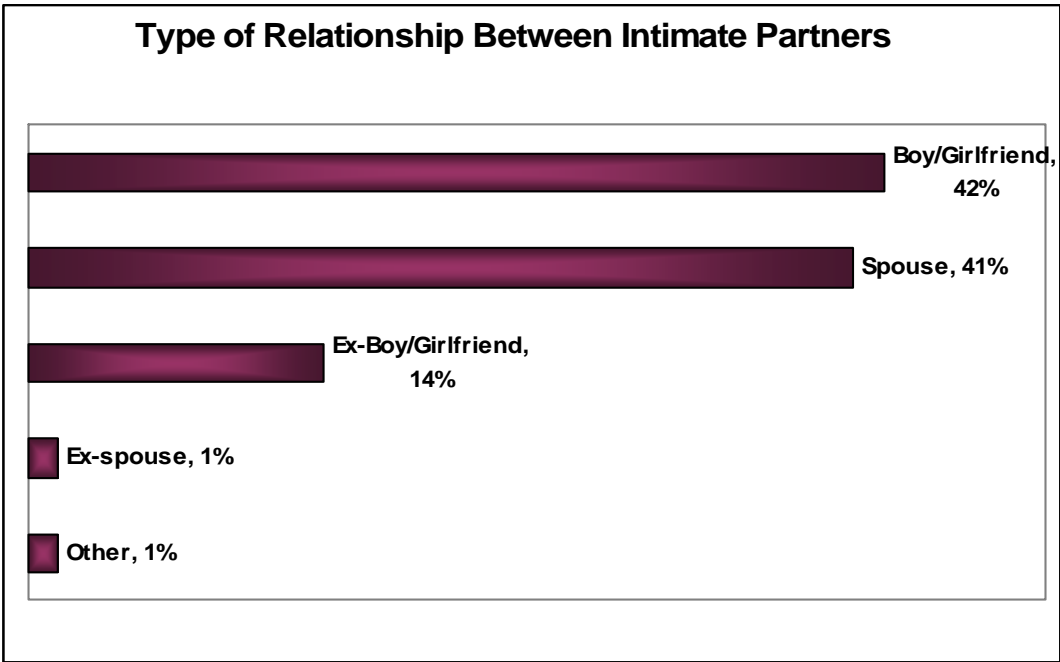
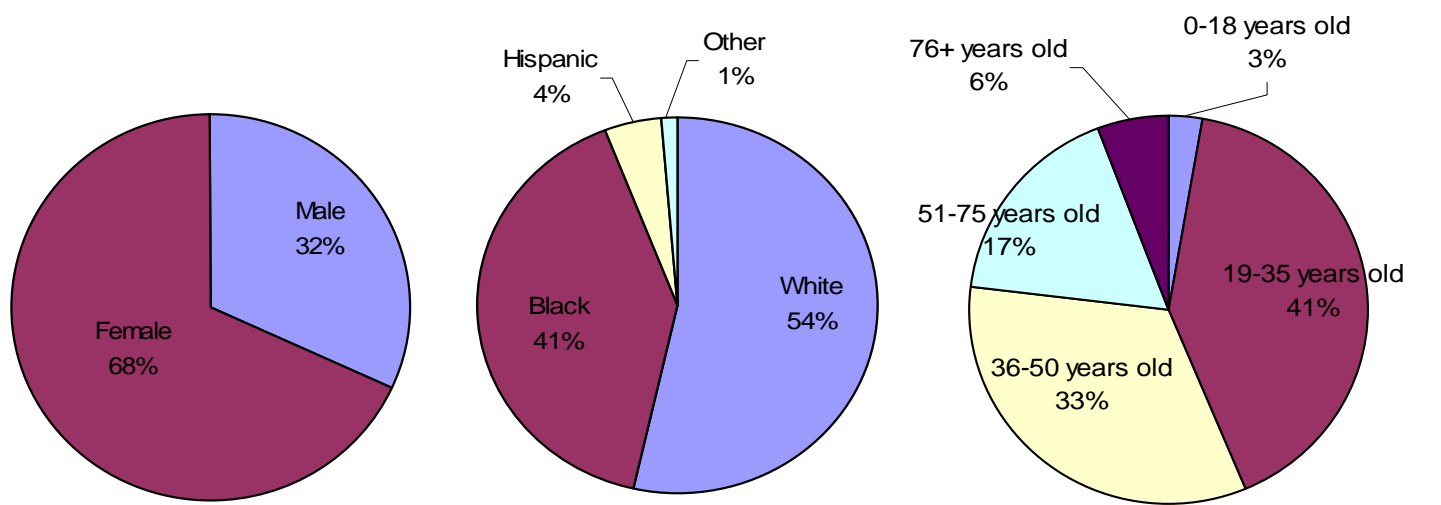
One in five Virginia homicides resulted from intimate partner violence in 2005. These included homicides between intimate partners *and* other homicide victims who had intervened or were caught in the crossfire of intimate partner violence.

In 2005, **69** people were killed by an intimate partner. These homicides were committed against spouses, girl/boyfriends, ex-girl/boyfriends, and dating partners.

Among these 69 victims we know that...

- Two out of three intimate partner homicide victims were female.
- 51% of all female homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner. In comparison, 13% of all male homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner.
- 58% of the victims were killed by a firearm and 23% by a sharp instrument.
- 80% were killed at a residence.
- One in four victims (25%) were killed in a homicide–suicide event, where the homicide was followed within seven days by the perpetrator’s suicide. All of the victims in these events were women.
- Almost one–third (32%) of homicide victims discussed their abusive relationship with a third party (including police, family, co–workers, friends, etc.) prior to the fatal incident.
- Roughly one in four victims (28%) had ended their relationship prior to being killed.

Figures 1-3. Demographic profile of homicide victims killed by an intimate partner.



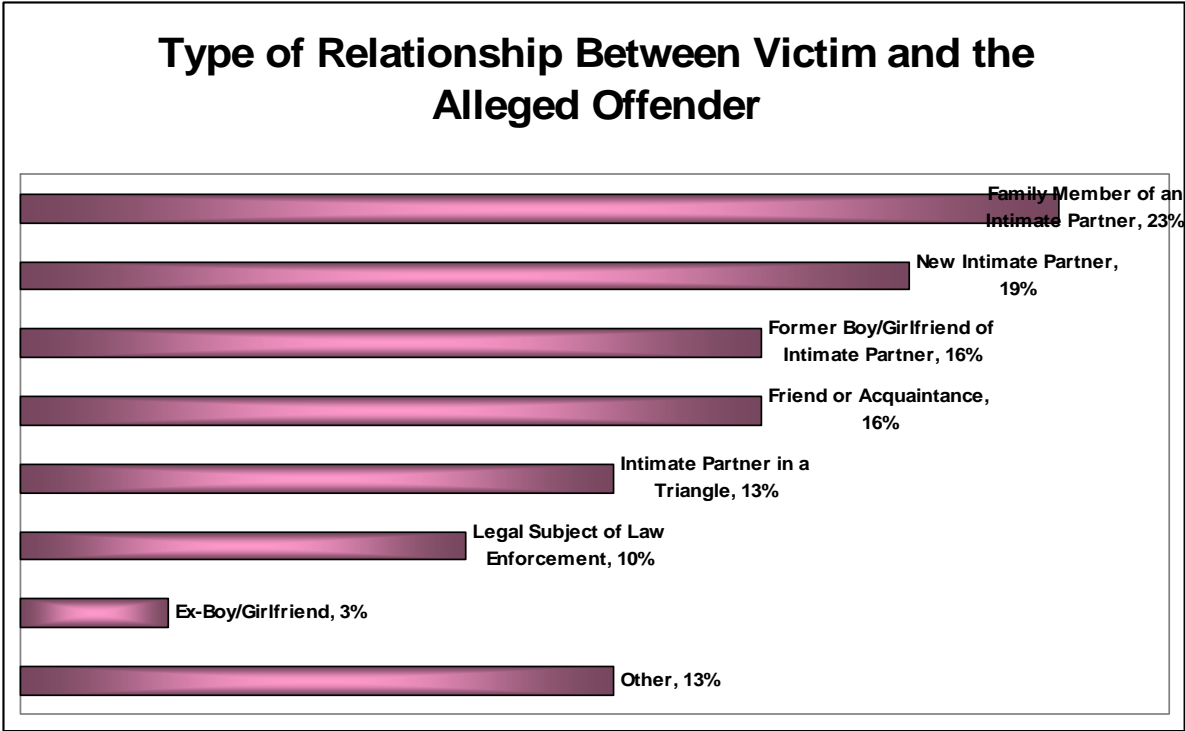
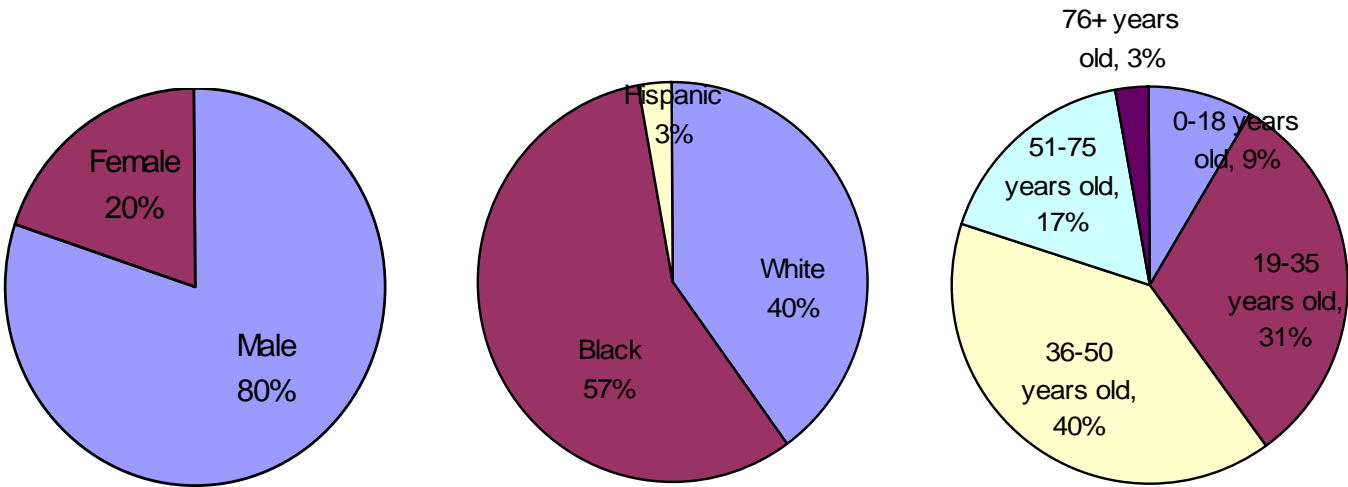
Each year, in addition to victims killed by an intimate partner, there are other victims whose deaths also result from violence between intimate partners. These are bystanders, abusers killed by law enforcement and others caught in the crossfire or who intervened in an altercation between intimate partners. These victims could include persons such as family members or one of the intimate partners, friends, co-workers or neighbors.

In 2005, there were an additional **35** people killed as a result of violence between intimate partners.

Among these 35 victims we know that:

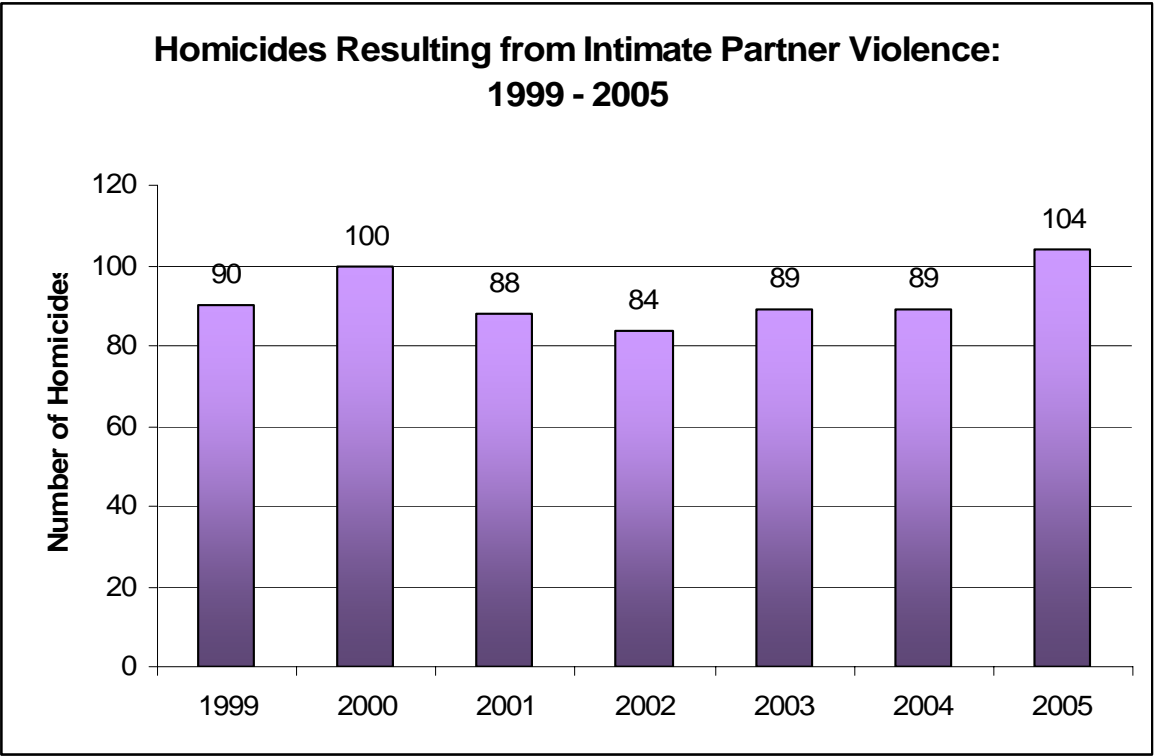
- 80% were males.
- 73% were killed by a firearm.
- The intimate partner relationship had ended or was ending in four out of ten (40%) homicide events.
- In almost one in three cases (31%) the abuse victim had begun a relationship with a new person.

Figures 4-6. Demographic profile of homicide victims associated with intimate partner violence.



Between 1999 and 2005, **644** people died as a result of intimate partner violence. These numbers include both intimate partner and intimate partner related homicide victims.

Figure 5. Number of homicides resulting from intimate partner violence from 1999-2005



Additional Information

For additional information on family and intimate partner related homicides visit the Virginia Department of Health at:

- <http://vdhweb/medexam/violence.asp>

For additional information on domestic violence visit:

- <http://www.vahealth.org/civp/projectradarva/index.asp>
- <http://www.vsdvalliance.org/index.html>